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PHOTO SERIES NO. 47

PREPARATION OF WOOL FOR MARKET

FEBRUARY 1960

The following USDA photographs illustrate some of the activities conducted in the process of preparing wool for market. The photographs include scenes of sheep shearing, and the bagging, loading, and grading of wool. These photographs were taken for the Agricultural Marketing Service.



N-32406--Sheep in a corral on a high plains ranch await shearing.



N-32410--A sheep herder's camp, supply wagon, etc., of the type generally found in the West.



N-32389--A shearing captain sharpens shearing combs and cutters used by the shearers.



N-32371--The shearing operation begins on a well-kept, tidy shearing floor such as the one shown here.

Magazines and newspapers may obtain glossy prints of any of these photographs from the Photography Division, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C. Others may purchase prints (8 x 10) at \$1.00 each from the same address.



N-32369--The first step in shearing sheep is to remove the straw and other foreign matter from the fleece of the animal to be shorn.



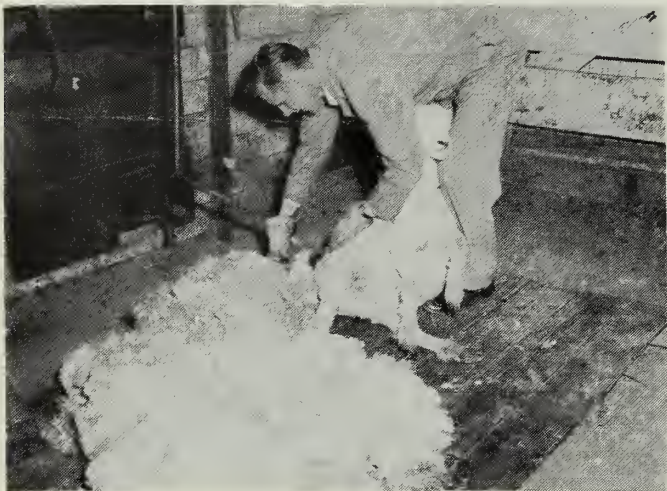
N-32370--The shearing floor is then swept clean before shearing begins.



N-32372--The brisket and the belly are the first sections of the sheep to feel the shears.



N-32373--The side and back of the sheep are sheared next, then turned to shear opposite side.



N-32375--This last stroke completes the shearing.



N-32380--A sheep stands aside after the shearing is completed.



N-32398--The feet are sometimes tied together while the animal is sheared.



N-32388--A line of sheep shearers in an eight-drop sheep shearing operation.



N-32391--Two fleece tiers work in the foreground with paper fleece twines wrapped around their waists.



N-32407-- Freshly shorn flock, marked (branded) with branding solution, stands outside the shearing shed.



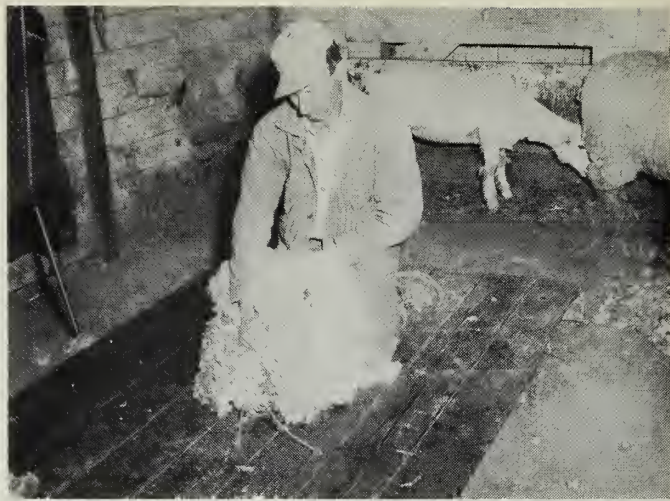
N-32383--Paper twine vs. sisal, with paper twine on left and sisal on right; paper twine is much preferred over sisal.



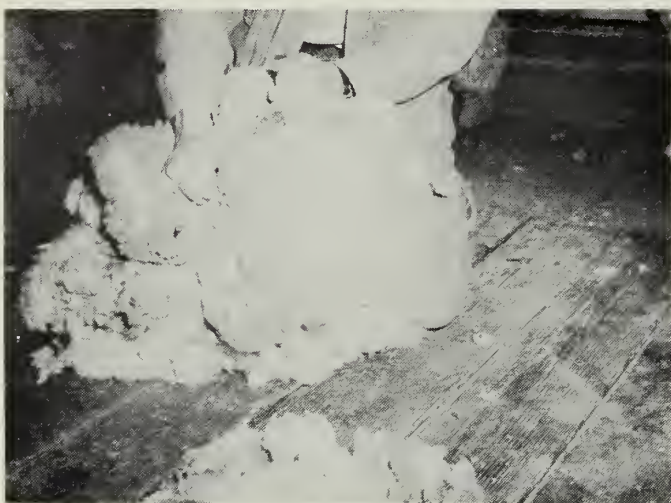
N-32376-- The first step in tying a fleece is to fold in the belly, leg, and side wool; note the string on the floor under the fleece.



N-32381--The second step in tying fleece is to roll it forward.



N-32377-- Then the fleece is tied into a bundle with an $8\frac{1}{2}$ -foot paper twine.



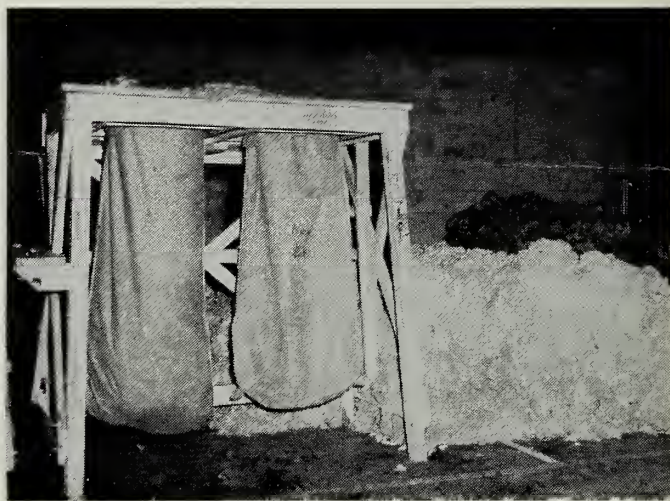
N-32382--A close-up view shows the fleece being tied into a bundle; the hairy leg and face wool and defective belly wool is kept separate from the body wool (foreground).



N-32378 -- A well-tied fleece, with the flesh side out.



N-32379 -- This is a comparison of a well-tied fleece, right, and poorly-tied fleece, left.



N-32427 -- A bagging frame, with wool in the background.



N-32390-- A wool "tromper" in a bag partially filled with wool; an iron ring holds the wool bag on the bagging frame.



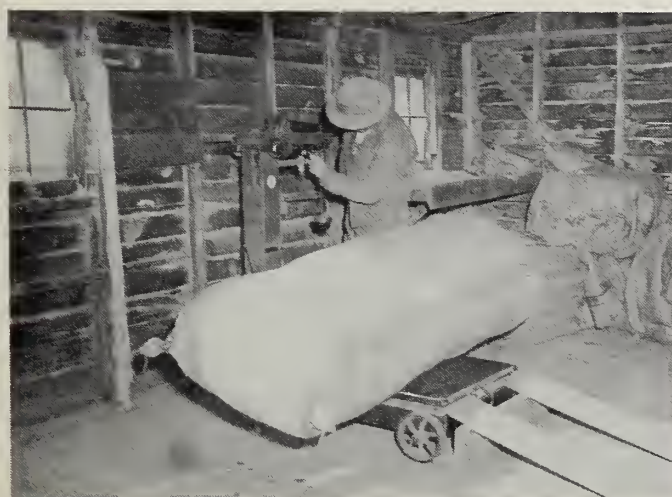
N-32394-- Wool "tromper" sews up mouth of a bag of wool after it has been packed.



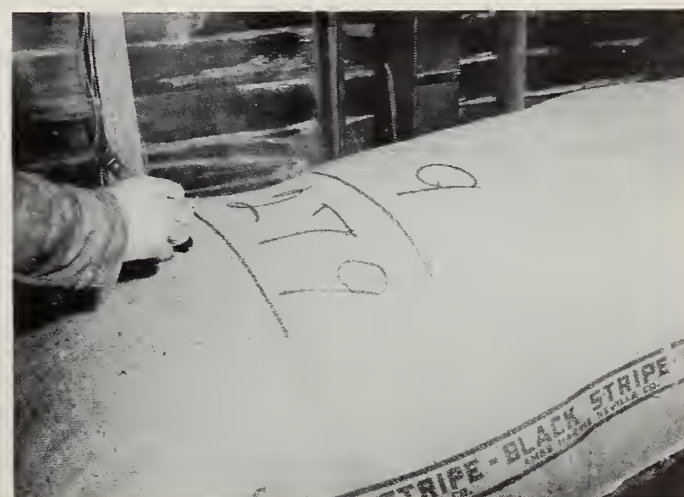
N-32395-- "Tromper" sews the mouth of a bag completely, and makes an ear at each corner of the bag as a hold for ease in handling.



N-32384-- Three bags of well-packed wool; note ears on corners of each bag.



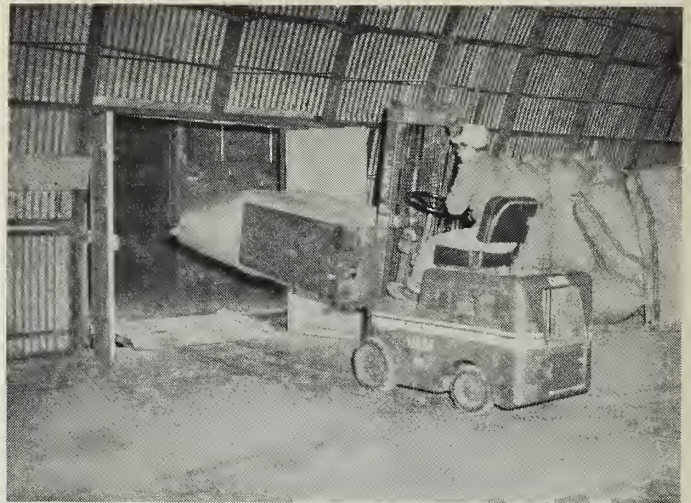
N-32402-- A weigher weighs a bag (or sack) of wool; note reserve supply of empty bags in the background.



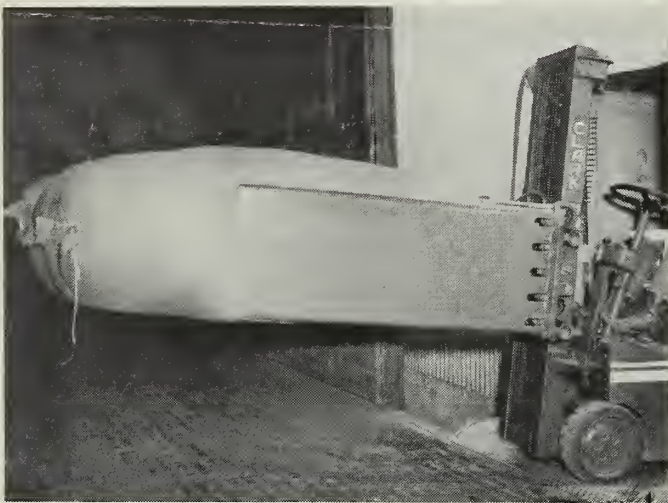
N-32403-- A bag is marked with the owner's identification, bag number, weight, and the kind of wool (ewe, ram, yearling, etc.); note the gross bag weight shown as 279 pounds.



N-32399 - - These bags of wool are ready for shipment.



N-32413--A fork lift truck is used to load bags into a box-car for shipment to market.



N-32419--Close-up view of fork lift truck as it is used in loading bags of wool into boxcars.



N-32415--Bags of wool are stacked high in a boxcar.



N-32420--A bag of wool is opened or "seamed" in preparation for the grading table.



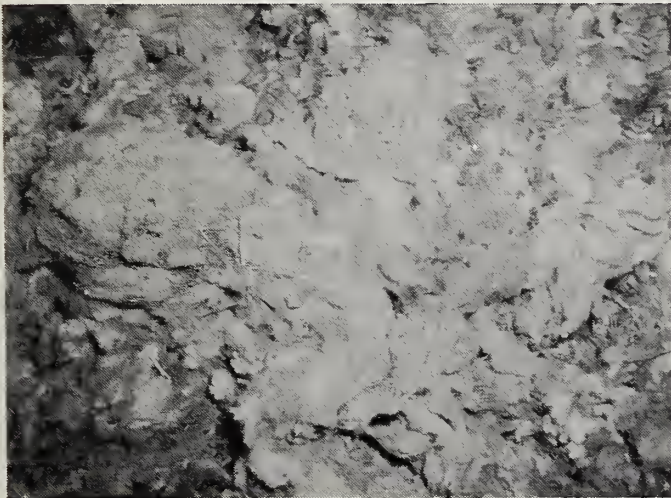
N-32421--Wool grader inspects fleece for grade and length to make a classification.



N-32422-- After examining the wool, the grader places it into one of the boxes or carts containing the different lengths and grades.



N-32424--A close-up view of the wool as it is checked by a wool grader for general fiber characteristics, fineness, length, etc.



N-32423--Close-up view of fleece contaminated with straw, chaff, etc.



N-32426-- "This goes here" . . . the grader tosses fleece into the proper grade and length box.



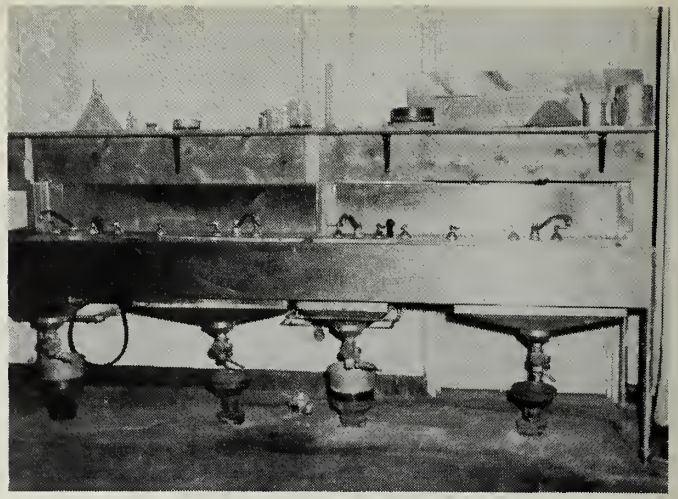
N-32425 -- "And this goes over there" . . . grader tosses another fleece into the appropriate box.



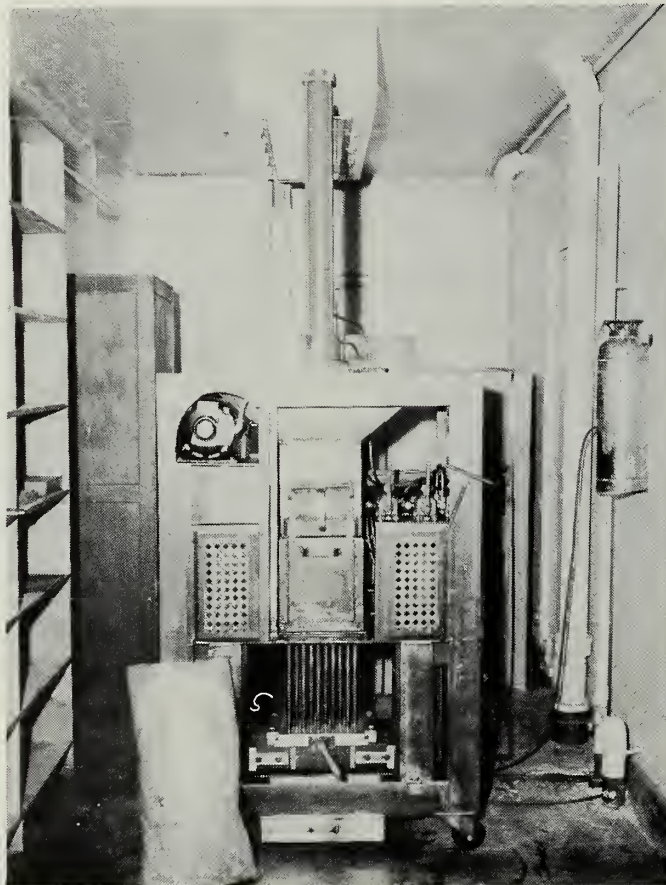
N-32429--Piles of graded wool, with bagged wool in background.



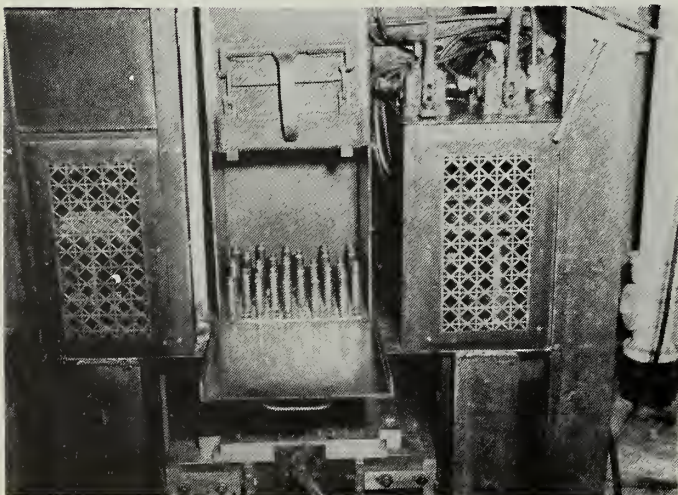
N-32428--Pile of graded wool ready for re-bagging prior to shipment to processor.



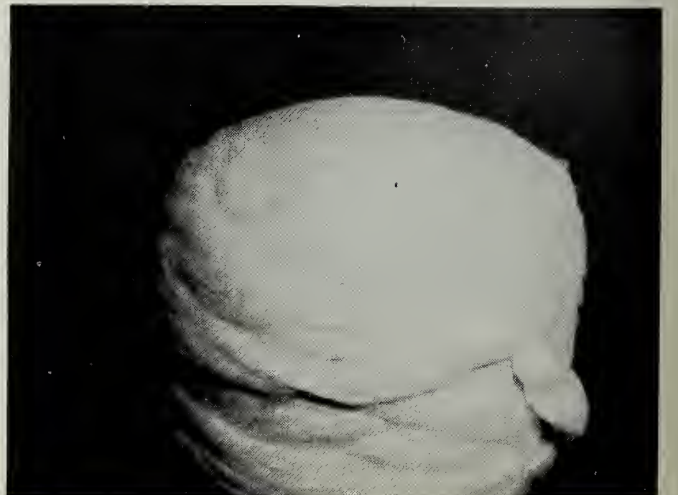
N-32433--Laboratory wool scouring vats and accessories which are used for making clean yield determinations.



N-32431--This is a hydraulic subsampling machine in the USDA Wool Laboratory in Denver, Colorado.



N-32432--Close-up view of hydraulic subsampling machine showing the 3/8-inch tubes.



N-32430--This is a ball of wool top---wool that has been scoured, carded, and combed.